

Top Secret



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West Germany - USSR: The new Brandt government is preparing to sign the nuclear nonproliferation treaty.

[redacted] present plans call for a parliamentary debate on the treaty on 12 November, cabinet consideration on 13 November, and signature early in the week of 17 November. It appears likely that the West Germans, barring new difficulties, will adhere to this schedule.

[redacted] the Soviets have responded to a request made earlier this month for a clarification of their position and have repeated assurances that they would not discriminate against West German efforts to develop nuclear energy for peaceful uses. [redacted] the Soviets adhered to their previous formula on their claimed rights of intervention in German affairs under the UN Charter, but it seems likely that Chancellor Brandt will not allow this to stand in the way of a major accomplishment for his regime.

West German Foreign Minister Scheel has publicly said that the US response to a request for treaty clarifications was fully satisfactory. He termed the Soviet response generally satisfactory, but added that Bonn would want to discuss it again with the Soviets. Scheel's cautious approach to the Russian reply probably derives from a desire not to arouse conservative opponents of the treaty prior to the Bundestag debate. The nature of the debate may be a factor in helping Brandt and Scheel decide when to submit the treaty for parliamentary ratification.

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Venezuela: A "silent" student demonstration planned for this week may lead to violence. Moderate leftist youth groups have joined extremists to form a student resistance committee in support of striking teachers and in defense of university autonomy. The radical elements can be expected to try to provoke a clash with security forces. The military moved into Central University in Caracas when violence occurred in late October, and will be ready to handle any disorders should they develop.

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